



WELCOME TO OLOMOUC

ERASMUS + MOBILITY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Our school Zeyerova Olomouc takes part in Erasmus+ project "World War II – Our history and its cultural legacy" together with our partners from Crete, Germany, France and Poland. The aim of the project is to make young generation to look back to our history, compare historical events connecting to World War II in all participating countries, get students more interested in their past and that way help them to understand better our present days and realize what means to become an European citizen....

During September 22-27, 2019 we had chance to host our partners in our city.

31 students from our school took part actively in the fourth mobility and they tried to prepare an interesting programme for their guests.





DAY 2 Sightseeing around the city and getting to know each other

DAY 1 Partners' arrival

On Sunday 22 September we couldn't wait to meet our guests and take them to our families. After a long journey they were tired so it was time to accommodate them and let them have some rest.

The programme of our mobility started on Monday morning when we took our guests to music school where the opening ceremony of the project was held. Our headteacher explained the importance of such a project for our school and welcomed officially our partners to our city. After they could watch music and dance parade that our students prepared for them. Then we showed our partners around our school buildings and after lunch at our cafeteria we walked together to Olomouc downtown.

We visited a local townhall and a lot of sights as well. For a sightseeing tour we took the tourist train what we believe was a nice surprise for our friends. After visiting the historical city centre we drove up to Holly hill area where we organised a picnic on a meadow and icebreaking activities to have chance to get to know our partners better. It was such fun!



DAY 3 Bitter memories in Lidice

After a night with families our programme started very early.. So we met in the morning at the train station and set off the journey to Lidice, probably the saddest part of the programme. We had a guided tour around the place commemorating the annihilation of a small village by Nazis during WW 2, we visited the museum where we learnt about life and destiny of village inhabitants. We also admired the bronze memorial commemorating the youngest inhabitants of the place in the time of its random extermination where all 340 innocent people died.

Before going to Lidice we watched a documentary about it and after the visit we listened to Memorial to Lidice by Bohuslav Martinů to remind the events of June 1942

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIP9HYJQ25M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2Gb0-hcZ58>



On an unforgettable night in June 1942, the peaceful village of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, ceased to exist. It was neither earthquake nor flood that wiped this town from the verdant hills west of Prague; it was the dark evil of man's nature. Nazi troops swept through the village as it slept, killing the men, deporting the women and children. The buildings were burnt to the ground and everything leveled; nothing remained, not even the cemetery. The massacre was the Nazis' way of avenging the plot to assassinate the vicious S.S. leader Reinhard Heydrich ("Heydrich the Hangman"), whose term as regional governor had been a reign of terror. Shortly after Heydrich died of injuries from the assassination attempt, the retaliation began.



THE CHILDREN'S WAR VICTIMS MONUMENT

An academic sculptor professor Marie Uchytilová was deeply touched by the tragedy of the crime in Lidice. In 1969 she decided to create bronze monument of Lidice children that should be also understood as A Monument of children's war victims. To create eighty-two statues of children in an above-life-size height took her two decades. The atelier where the monument was created was meanwhile visited by tens of thousands of people from the whole world. They started collecting money spontaneously so that the monument could be realized as it already touched everyone who had seen it.

In March 1989 the author finished her art work in plaster however she never saw any money from the collected donations. Therefore she cast in bronze the first three statues from her own savings. Unfortunately in autumn 1989 she unexpectedly died. She could only see her whole life work placed in Lidice in her imagination.

Her husband J. V. Hampl continued in the work since 1990 on his own. In spring 1995 there was a concrete rest ceased by marble blocks made on the marked place. Afterwards the moment that was awaited for a long time came. 30 children in bronze shape returns to their mothers in Lidice. Since summer 1996 more statues were installed with a different time in between each installation. Currently there are 42 girls and 40 boys murdered in 1942 looking at the valley.

The horrors of Lidice became an emblem, a symbol of how a sleepy, innocent village could be swept up into the fascist terror. The intent was to obliterate the village—but it remained a potent memory. Other towns adopted the name and some parents gave it to girls born at the time. Lidice emerged as a symbol not just for Czechs, but also for the world

This visit showed us clearly dark sides of wartime and we left the place with strong belief it would never happen or even more we won't let it happen again.

Next our trip continued and we could taste a bit of our capital. We showed our guests the historical landmarks of the city and we also visited St. Cyrillus and Method Church, the place reminding us the military operation Anthropoid when brave men got rid of the Nazi officer Reinhard Heydrich.



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE HEROES OF HEYDRICH TERROR

The National Memorial to the Heroes of Heydrich Terror is located in underground of Ortodox cathedral of St. Cyril and Methodius in Prague. The Memorial is property of Prague City Hall. It is led and administrated by Military History Institute Prague that designed and installed Memorial exposition there.



The National Memorial to the Heroes of the Heydrich Terror and a place for reconciliation by Ortodox cathedral of St. Cyril and Methodius was established in 1995 by Jaroslav and Eva Šuvarský. Museum was built as a new space next to the original underground basement. The new hall has been connected to the crypt itself since the completion of the reconstruction project in 1995. Museum and memorial in crypt became dignified and piety place, which keeps memory of seven Czechoslovak paratroopers of brave fight against great outnumbered German Nazi forces. It happened on 18th of June 1942.

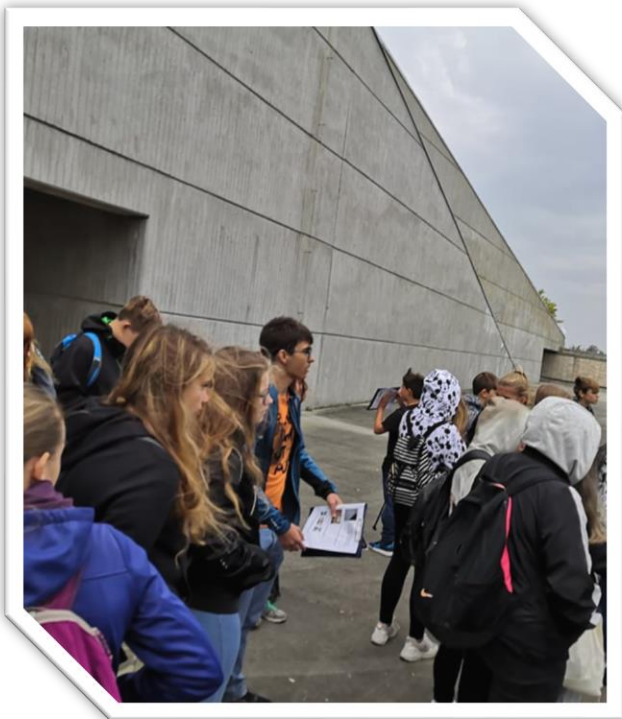
Seven Czechoslovakian soldier under cover found hiding place in crypt of St. Cyril and Methodius after assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, which was executed by Jan Kubiš and Josef Gabčík on 27th of May 1942 in a road junction near Kobylisy. Both of them were among those seven men. This period of the second martial law, declared after assassination, was later called „Heydrich´s terror“.

Contemporary exhibition was installed by Military History Institute Prague in 2010. In 2017 Military History Institute Prague took over whole Memorial under its management. The exhibition follows main historical events from Munich Agreement in 1938 till the fight in cathedral and crypt in 1942. Visitors can follow stories of Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, Heydrich´s carrier, special training of Czechoslovakian soldiers in Scotland, families of Resistance members as well same as the story of Lidice village burned by Nazis 10 June 1942



DAY 4 Welcome to protectorate days

Next day we headed to Hrabyně and experienced another sad historical events when we visited World War Memorial of Silesian museum where we had a guided tour titled The time of destruction and hope learning more about wartime period and especially about Czechoslovak home and foreign resistance and on the victims of the persecution by the Nazi regime. In the second part of the educational programme we had a workshop thematically focused on the life and its conditions under the Protectorate Bohemia- Moravia



DAY 5 Tell me how many languages can you speak

On Thursday we arrived to school to celebrate European Day of Languages that was prepared for all students of our school and we had some extra workshops for Erasmus+ project participants. They were able to learn new words in different languages describing war guns and equipment, they tried to make working plane models and finally they worked in mixed teams to fold origami and write a poem about our project.



In the afternoon we walked to the outskirts of the city where was organized a game called A treasure hunt as we know Fort Boyard from TV. Students were divided into different groups supervised by an English speaking coach so the students couldn't communicate in their mother tongues any more. Everybody had a great time, it was a definite tribute to mutual cooperation and new friendship. Our programme was concluded with a farewell party with music, dancing and barbecue.



DAY 6 Saying goodbye

After the last night spent with host families our project time came to an end and we were forced to say goodbye to each other and our partners, now our friends, had to come back to their homes.